(d) CMRL, a private sector company produces synethetic rutile-value added product by beneficiating the mineral ilmenite.

(e) Yes, Sir. Since 01.04.2000, on the recommendation of the State Government of Kerala, approval has been conveyed in respect of four proposals for grant of mining lease for ilemenite, rutile, leucoxene, zircon, monazite and sillmanite in favour of M/s. Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. for a period of thirty years.

Training and familiarisation programme for officials/doctors

895. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has instructed the atomic power stations to hold training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such training and familiarisation programmes organised by various atomic power stations, so far, plant-wise;

(c) how far the Off-Site Emergency Exercises (OSEE) conducted recently by certain power stations could fulfil its objectives; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to impress upon the district administration the importance of good coordination among various agencies during any emergency or disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir, While reviewing the conduct of off-site emergency preparedness plans, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has asked atomic power stations to hold more frequent training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of State Health Department including those in primary health centres every year.

(b) The training programmes for medical professionals are conducted in a centralised manner. Nine (Five times in Mumbai, three times in Tarapur, Maharashtra and once in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu) times such programmes have been held. The training and familiarisation programme to District officials is conducted at all sites just before the off-site emergency exercise is planned which is one in two years.

(c) The off-site emergency exercises (OSEE) conducted by nuclear power stations could very satisfactorily fulfil the objectives of being in a state of preparedness for the unlikely event of an off-site emergency. After every off-site exercise is conducted, the observers from different agencies such as Nuclear Power Corporation, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) give their comments on the exercise which are reviewed and short comings if any are rectified in the subsequent exercises.

(d) In the off-site emergency exercise the feed back of the observers to all concerned agencies including District administration is given for corrective action and improvements. The feed backs are noted by all agencies including District administration for necessary actions. The improvement of off-site emergency preparedness is an on-going programme and it is carried out by continuous interaction between station authorities, district administration and other agencies.

Telecommunication facilities in NER

896. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan to provide telecommunication facilities in all the villages of NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government has a policy to cover all the villages of the country including NER with a village public telephone by the end of 2002. Due to delay in getting security clearance for Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) based technology and also a large number of villages are required to be covered by satellite-based phones in Assam and North Eastern States, the achievement of target is likely to spill over to 2003-2004.